(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the names of the places where such centres are proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Government of Karnataka has established a State level Exhibition Authority and has earmarked a suitable piece of land for putting up a permanent exhibition complex at Bangalore. It is taking steps to work out the modalities of funding the project. Other States like West Bengal, U.P., Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, J & K etc. have also shown interest in setting up exhibition complexes in their capitals. The Trade Fair Authority of India is in touch with all these States.

Forest cover in different States

1729. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area under forest cover in different States as on 1st January, 1960 and 1st January, 1987;

(b) the percentage of forest area lost/gained during the above period due to diversion of forest land for development activities, such as industries, rail/road, irrigation, other projects and due to afforestation; and

(c) the steps being taken for covering more area under forest through afforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No suveys to assess the area under forest cover as on 1st January, 1960 and 1st January, 1987 have been carried out.

(b) The extent of forest area lost between the period 1951 to 1980 was 4.328 million ha., whereas after the promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the loss of forest area between 1980 to 1987 has been 42029.36 ha. The total area afforested during the period 1951 to 1987 was 11.45 million ha.

(c) The National Wastelands Development Board has been set up in 1985 with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantations. A people's movement for afforestation is being developed.

Development of Tourist Spots in Assam

1730. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposals from the Assam Government for the development of a few tourist spots at Guwahati and Shibsagar;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Central Government's consideration to construct a hanging bridge connecting Guwahati and Umananda and also to construct a park at Guwahati from Sukleshwar to the foot-hills of Nilachal Hill; and

(c) if so, by when the proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam has suggested construction of a Yatri Niwas at Sibsagar. The State Government has been requested to send detailed proposal in this regard. The Ministry of Tourism has also received proposals for beautification of Guwahati by setting up a Park from Sukleswar to the Foot Hills of Nilachal Hill and construction of a ropeway over River Brahamputra connecting Guwahati city with Umananda. The Ministry is in favour of development of Umananda as a tourist attraction for which it is necessary to connect Umananda with Guwahati and has, therefore, sought approval of these schemes and allocation of additional funds for the purpose.